

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for fabricating a load/unload ramp for a disc drive, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) providing a mold having a cavity therein shaped for molding a load/unload ramp;
- (b) coating surfaces in the cavity with an amount of a disc drive compatible lubricant as a release agent effective to provide a layer of predetermined thickness on the fabricated load/unload ramp;
- (c) injecting a polymer into the lubricant coated cavity;
- (d) solidifying the polymer melt to form the molded load/unload ramp in the cavity; and
- (e) releasing the molded load/unload ramp from the cavity.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the coating step (b) further comprises selecting perfluoropolyether as the disc drive compatible lubricant.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the coating step (b) further comprises using an amount of disc drive compatible lubricant effective to provide a layer of predetermined thickness between about 200 Å and about 500 Å.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the coating step (b) further comprises using an amount of disc drive compatible lubricant effective to provide a layer of predetermined thickness between about 200 Å and about 350 Å.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the coating step (b) further comprises using an amount of disc drive compatible lubricant effective to provide a layer of predetermined thickness between about 200 Å and about 250 Å.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the injecting step (c) further comprises a liquid crystal polymer as the polymer melt.

7. (Original) A method of fabricating a load/unload ramp for a disc drive, the method comprising steps of:
- (a) providing a mold having a cavity therein having a shape of a load/unload ramp;
 - (b) plasticizing a polymer to form a polymer melt;
 - (c) mixing the polymer melt with a disc drive compatible lubricant wherein the disc drive compatible lubricant acts as a releasing agent effective to provide a layer of predetermined thickness on the fabricated load/unload ramp;
 - (d) injecting the polymer melt/lubricant mixture into the cavity;
 - (e) solidifying the polymer melt/lubricant mixture to form the molded load/unload ramp in the cavity; and
 - (f) releasing the molded load/unload ramp from the cavity.
8. (Original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the mixing step (c) further comprises selecting perfluoropolyether as the disc drive compatible lubricant.
9. (Original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the mixing step (c) further comprises using an amount of disc drive compatible lubricant effective to provide a layer of predetermined thickness between about 200 Å and about 500 Å.
10. (Original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the mixing step (c) further comprises using an amount of disc drive compatible lubricant effective to provide a layer of predetermined thickness between about 200 Å and about 350 Å.
11. (Original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the mixing step (c) further comprises using an amount of disc drive compatible lubricant effective to provide a layer of predetermined thickness between about 200 Å and about 250 Å.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the mixing step (c) further comprises using a final concentration of 0.5% to 3% lubricant in proportion to the polymer melt.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a load/unload ramp having a layer of disc drive compatible lubricant, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a mold having a cavity therein shaped for forming the load/unload ramp; and

(b) ~~process for~~ fabricating the load/unload ramp having a layer of disc drive compatible lubricant having a predetermined thickness on the fabricated load/unload ramp in the mold.